



Evaluation of Front Line Demonstrations on onion (*Allium cepa* L.)

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ABSTRACT

Problems of onion crop production and their solutions at farming situations were studied with the participation of farmers. In this regard, a frontline demonstration for four years on onion was conducted at different locations in Dharwad district. These demonstrations focused on increased productivity of onion per unit area and get the feed back from farmers on the performances of onion variety. The study revealed that over the years Arka Kalyan variety has performed superior over local check. The gross returns, net returns and B:C ratio recorded were highest in Arka kalyan variety compared to local check. Further study reveals the wide yield and management gaps between demonstration and farmers practices.

INTRODUCTION

Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) is one of the important commercial vegetable crops produced in India for both domestic consumption and export. India accounts for 16 per cent of the world's area and occupies the second position after China in production with a share of around 14 per cent (FAOSTAT, 2010). The productivity of onion is much low in India than the world average (Pandey, 2000; Lawande, 2005). In Karnataka major area under onion is under rain fed situation and most of the farmers use their own seed material for cultivation, which is not regulated properly for varieties admixture and consists of a heterogeneous material which reduces productivity. Dharwad district in northern Karnataka is an important onion growing district. Even in Dharwad district yield levels are lower than the state average (Anonymous, 2008). However, the technological break through has no doubt recorded greater strides in augmenting onion production and productivity. But the in-sufficient and improper extension activities are the major factors resulting in non-adoption of improved package developed at research institutions. Further, the replacement ratio of traditional varieties with improved varieties and non-

availability of sufficient quantity of quality seeds of improved variety in time, are the major constraints in onion cultivation. Hence, with these in view, the present investigation was undertaken to know the performance of onion variety Arka Kalyan with local variety through Front Line Demonstrations.

METHODS

The present study was conducted in Dharwad district of northern Karnataka. Improved onion variety Arka Kalyan was introduced through frontline demonstrations of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Saidapur farm Dharwad, from 2006-07 to 2009-10 in the adopted villages of Dharwad district. Each demonstration was conducted in an area of 0.4 ha. adjacent to this, local variety was also grown for comparison. Materials for the study with respect to frontline demonstrations and farmers practices are given in Table 1. The data on production cost and monetary returns were collected from 45 demonstrations and 30 non-demonstration farmers. All the recommended package of practices was followed for both the varieties (Anonymous, 2007). The technology gap, extension gap and technology index were calculated as given by Eswaraprasad *et al.* (1993) and